

III. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-25, 28-36, and 46-128 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 24, 47, 58, 68, and 88 are independent.

Applicants have added new Claims 47-128 to afford themselves a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new claims are fully supported in the specification and Drawings, and are believed to be allowable for the reasons to be developed below.

Applicants confirm the election of Claims 1-36 and 46 with traverse. Traversal is on the ground that a search of the art for one group of Claims will necessarily include a search of the art relevant to the non-elected claims. Accordingly, it is believed that the burden on the Examiner to search all sets of claims is less than the burden on the Applicants/public to prosecute/search more than one application/patent. Non-elected Claims 37-45 have been cancelled.

The Drawings have been amended, as required. Note that the Network Manager is depicted in Figs. 3 and 4, ref 224.

Claim 28 has been amended to overcome the objection

to the specification.

Claims 10, 18, 19, 21, and 32 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons noted at page 4 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that the person of ordinary skill in the art would not be confused as to the meaning or scope of the claims. Nevertheless, these claims have been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and Drawings, and not in response to any statutory requirement.

Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-16, 20, 22-26, 31, and 33-35 were rejected as being unpatentable over Gorsuch, for the reasons noted at pages 4-8 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

The Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 5-7, 17, 27, 29-30, and 36 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have incorporated subject matter from the allowable dependent claims into the independent claims solely to secure immediate allowance thereof. In particular:

independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 2, 3, and 6;

independent Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 26-27; new

independent Claim 47 is original Claim 24 revised to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 26, 29, and 30;

new independent Claim 58 is original Claim 24 revised to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 33-36;

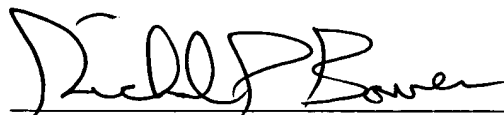
new independent Claim 68 is original Claim 1 revised to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 2 and 5; and

new independent Claim 88 is original Claim 1 revised to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 16 and 17.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelly Bower", is written over a horizontal line.

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Appendix

Replacement Sheets

Appendix

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

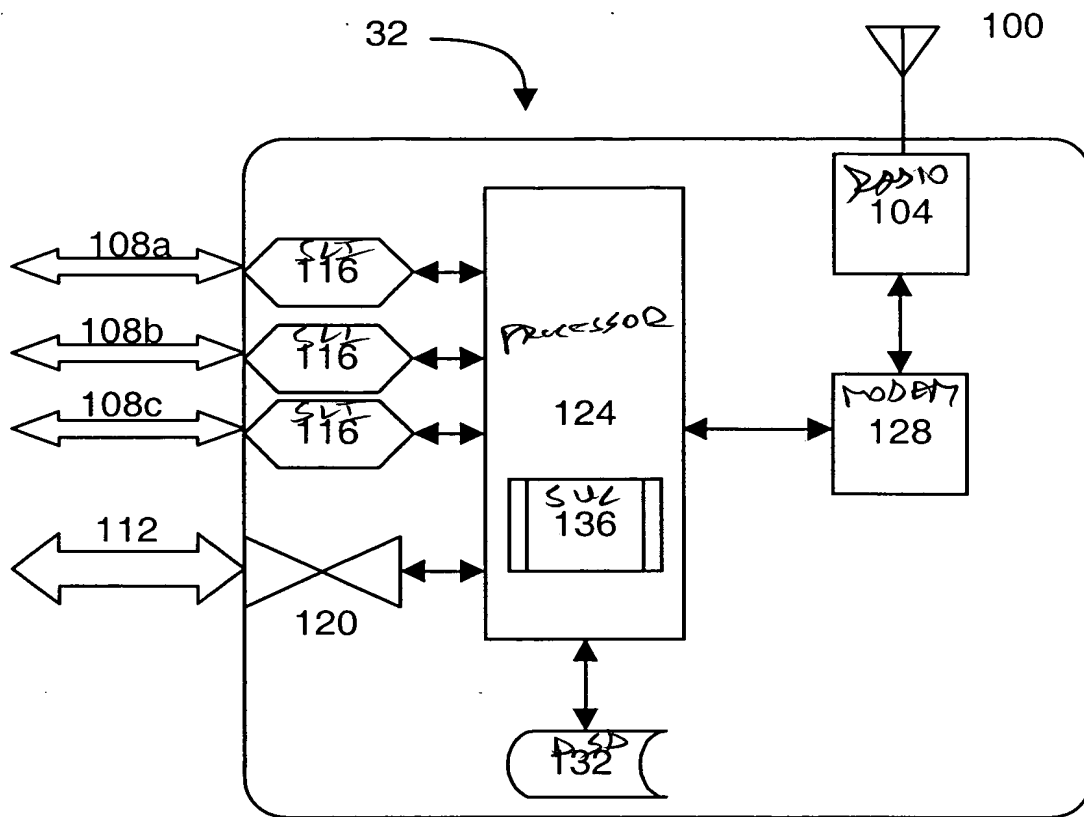
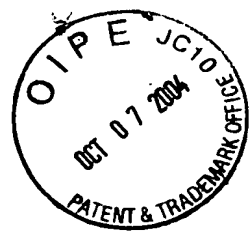


Fig. 2

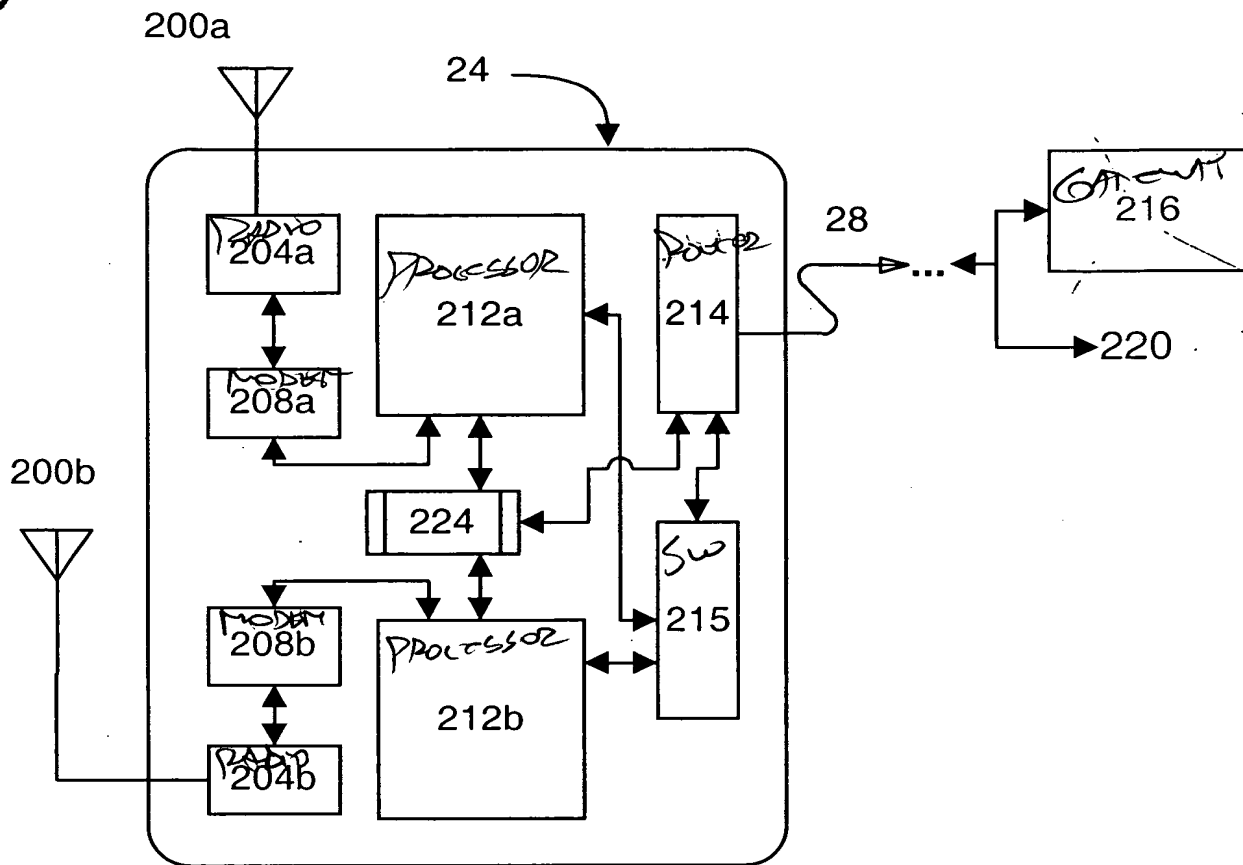
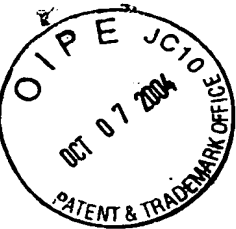


Fig. 3

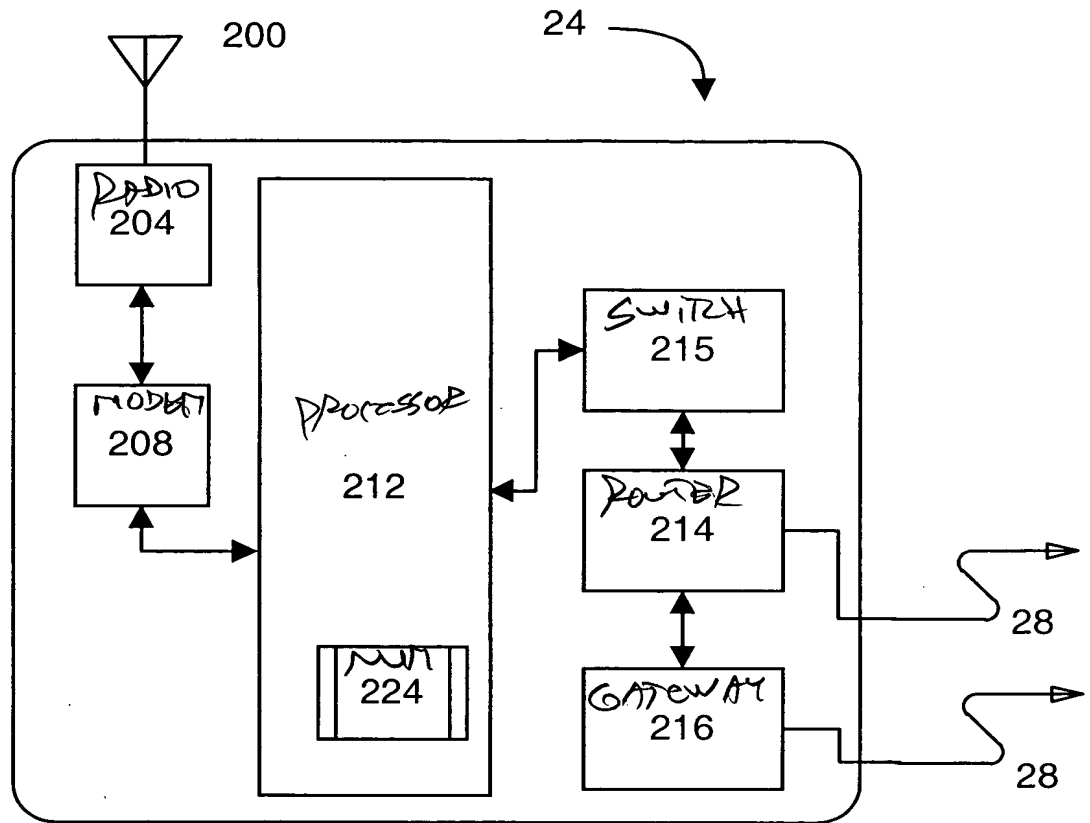
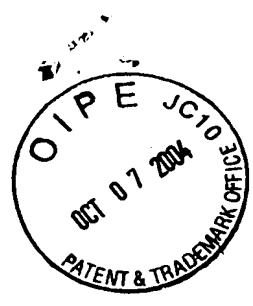


Fig. 4